

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1074
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3831

GUATEMALA FOR AG ATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, HO

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3747, STATE 203258

1. MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OFFICIALS HELD CONFERENCE WITH EXPORT PACKING HOUSE OPERATORS SEPTEMBER 1. MINISTRY INDICATED ITS DESIRE THAT VOLUNTARY QUOTA IN U.S. MARKET BE MET. PACKERS RESPONDED WITH STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO EXPORT THE PROGRAMMED 34.8 MILLION POUNDS. THEREFORE, MINISTRY'S PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE IS THAT QUOTA WILL BE MET. AG ATTACHE MCDONALD'S SURVEY 3 WEEKS AGO CONCLUDED THAT SHORTFALL WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 8 MILLION POUNDS. RECONCILIATION OF THE 2 FIGURES IS DIFFICULT. BOTH FIGURES OBTAINED FROM PRIMARY INDUSTRY SOURCES. ALTHOUGH TOTAL CAPACITY OF PACKING PLANTS IS CLOSE TO 50 MILLION POUNDS FOR EXPORT, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SHORTFALL TO DATE CAN BE FULLY MADE UP DURING LAST 4 MONTHS OF YEAR.

2. EMBASSY REITERATED REFTTEL PARAGRAPH 5 CONCERNING SHORTFALLS WILL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE. IT APPEARS THAT PRIME MOTIVATION FOR EXPORTS IS GOH NECESSITY FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS.

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